porrecta, triangularia vel subrhomboidea: *humeralia* atque *femoralia* quadrangula, latere exteriore rotundato, interiore angustato: *pectoralia* et *abdominalia* magna, oblongo-quadrata: *analia* quadrangula, posticè angustata: *axillaria* et *inguinalia* minuta, et à squamis ligamentum tegentibus parùm diversa. Ligamentum quod sternum testæ dorsali annectit, à medio scuti pectoralis usque ad marginem posteriorem scuti abdominalis extendit, squamulis numerosis tenuibus tectum.

Testæ osseæ mensura.

	unc.	lin.
Longitudo dorsi	8	0
Latitudo ejusdem	7	0
Longitudo sterni	7	8
Altitudo	3	0

In constituting the present genus upon a single character and from a single known species, I have been influenced by the importance of that character, as affording a new illustration of the relations of various forms of the family *Emydidæ*. That the annectant characters which indicate the passage from the *Testudinidæ*, or Land Tortoises, to the freshwater group, are to be found in the Box Tortoises forming the genus *Terrapene*, I have on more than one occasion endeavoured to demonstrate; and if there were a hiatus in this part of the series according to our former knowledge of them, it appears to me to be filled up by the present form, which not only bears a very obvious relation to *Terrapene* in the structure of the sternum, but also, by its manifest affinity to the Indian forms of the genus *Emys*, at once shows the situation in the group which is naturally occupied by these, and thereby assists us greatly in determining the general arrangement of the whole family. We have here an additional instance of the value which often attaches to the discovery of a single species, when such species, as in the present instance, proves to be intermediate between two forms, the mutual relations of which would, without it, have at least been doubtful, if not wholly unsuspected.

The striking similarity in the general form between this species and *Emys spinosa*, would almost lead us, on a superficial examination of the young of

the latter and the adult of the present, to suppose that they were specimens of an identical species, differing in age. The general orbicular form, the strong denticulations of the margin, the distinct carina, and the radiated lines on the sternum, as well as the general colour, may readily produce this impression; but closer observation will point out, not specific only, but generic distinctions between them. The permanent separation of the sternal from the dorsal bones, which are only connected by means of a ligament similar to that which performs the same office in *Terrapene*, is sufficiently important to warrant this conclusion; and on the other hand, the integrity of the whole sternum effectively distinguishes it from the true Box Tortoises, which have invariably one or more transverse divisions of the sternum itself, the lobes of which move as on a hinge; whilst in *Cyclemys*, the only motion of which the sternum is susceptible is that of being brought altogether a very little nearer to the dorsal shell. In *Terrapene europæa*, indeed, these two kinds of motion are combined, though each of them exists but in a small degree. Placing it, therefore, next to the Box Tortoises, we are compelled, by the affinities which I have mentioned, to view the Indian form of the genus *Emys* as that which most closely approximates to it on the other side, and consequently that which approaches most nearly to the Box Tortoises; a conclusion which could not have resulted from our previous knowledge of the group.

The specimens which I possess of this species have reached me from various oriental localities; from Madras, Bombay, and China. I have had not less than six or seven living, of various ages.

One of the individuals lived in my possession for many months, feeding heartily on raw flesh. Its flattened form and thin expanded margin enabled it to swim with great rapidity.

To the very young state Mr. Gray has in his Synopsis given the name of *Emys Dhor*, after Dr. Hamilton. The name *orbiculata* had, however, been previously assigned to it by myself; and I retain it not only on this account, but because of some doubt which exists as to the identity of Hamilton's species with the present.

Mons. Bibron has placed this species in the genus *Cistuda* (*Terrapene*, nob.), to which, however, I cannot assent. There is no division of the sternum into